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10/798,437	03/12/2004	Hiroyuki Tanaka	250370US2	5272

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EXAMINER
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SARPONG, AKWASI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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**DETAILED ACTION**

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/21/2009 has been entered.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-28 and 43-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikegami (6745334).

**Claim 1**, Ikegami discloses an image forming apparatus that can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing applications)** the image forming apparatus comprising:

a displaying part **(Fig. 6 shows clearly a display)** displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image

Art Unit: 2625

forming apparatus (**Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button**) ; and

an assigning part (**Col. 4 lines 45-51, Fig. 2 El. 171 and 170, thus CPU coordinates the interruptions between users input and the application of the copier**) assigning a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed such that the selected application is executed when the function key is later pushed after assigning of the selected application has occurred (**Col. 8 Lines 18-25, fig. 6, thus when a key is pressed or depressed the corresponding application is recognized or assigning as the operating mode of the image forming apparatus**).

(NB: **Col. 8 Lines 28-47- thus when a function key is pressed, the CPU 171 corresponds the depressed key to the operation mode of the image processing device either the user wants to use the copying or scanning or faxing mode of the image processing device**)

wherein the function key (**Fig. 6 El. 601, 604, 607 and 610, thus these keys are use to select the appropriate application**) is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications that are useable on the image forming apparatus (**Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 El. 172, thus when a user presses a copying key then among printing and faxing application copying is selected and all these applications processed on the digital copier shown in Fig. 1**) and that include at least one of a copy application,

Art Unit: 2625

**((Copy A and B 601 and 604)** and a printer application **(Printer button 610)** and a facsimile and **(FAX button 607)** application.

**Claim 2**, Ikegami discloses an image forming apparatus wherein the function key is a hardware key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)**

**Claim 3**, Ikegami discloses wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)**

**Claim 4**, Ikegami discloses wherein assigning by the assigning part is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to the function key **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application) .**

**Claim 5**, Ikegami discloses wherein when assigning of the selected application is performed the image forming apparatus displays a guidance screen **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 El. 617, Guidance key)** indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col.**

Art Unit: 2625

**8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made)**

**Claim 6**, Ikegami discloses wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus (**Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus**) and an image for guiding a user to the function key. (**Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus**)

**Claim 7**, Ikegami discloses wherein, when assigning of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating the number of applications assigning to the function key. (**Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated**).

**Claim 8**, Ikegami discloses wherein, when the function key is pushed for the selected application, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating that the function key cannot be assigning to the selected application if the number of applications assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number. (**Ikegami: Col. 9 Lines 44-61, Fig. 620, thus it clearly shows that**

Art Unit: 2625

**copying is possible and therefore it can be done, if it is impossible it will tell otherwise)**

**Claim 9**, Ikegami discloses the assigning part including:

a part obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key

**(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 33-45, thus when a copy button is pressed, CPU 171 communicates with 172) and**

a part storing an application ID of the selected application **(Ikegami:**

**Memory storing the application addresses in Fig. 2 El. 174 and 175)** and the

obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the

function key ID. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage**

**between the key and the software that supports the function key which**

**operates through the Processor as a communication means)**

**Claim 10**, Ikegami discloses wherein, in addition to the function key ID,

the image forming apparatus stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of

applications assigned to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus**

**the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

**Claim 11**, Ikegami discloses wherein, when a function key to which a

plurality of applications are assigned is pushed, the image forming apparatus

displays a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to

select one application from the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-**



Art Unit: 2625

**30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

**Claim 12**, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus displays application status for each of the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)**

**Claim 13**, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigning within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

**Claim 14**, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigning within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

**Claim 15**, Ikegami discloses a method used for assigning an application to a function key in an image forming apparatus that can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing)** the method comprising the steps of:

displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus **(Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button)** and processing **(CPU 171 since the CPU coordinates the inputs from the sensors as shown in fig. 2)** a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed for the selected application **(Col. 8 Lines 18-25, fig. 6, thus when a key is pressed or depressed the corresponding application is recognized or assigned as the operating mode of the image forming apparatus)**

wherein the function key **(Fig. 6 El. 601, 604, 607 and 610, thus these keys are use to select the appropriate application)** is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications. **(Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 El. 172, thus when a user presses a copying key then among printing and faxing application copying is selected)** and that include at least one of a **((Copy A and B 601 and 604)** and a printer application **(Printer button 610)** and a facsimile and **(FAX button 607)** application.

**Claim 16**, Ikegami discloses wherein the function key is a hardware key.  
**(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)**

**Claim 17**, Ikegami wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.  
**(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)**

**Claim 18**, Ikegami wherein the step of assigning is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application) .**

**Claim 19**, Ikegami discloses wherein when assigning of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a guidance screen **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 El. 617, Guidance key)** indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.  
**(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made)**

**Claim 20**, Ikegami wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus (**Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus**) and an image for guiding a user to the function key. (**Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus**)

**Claim 21**, Ikegami discloses wherein, when assigning of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating the number of applications assigning to the function key. (**Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated**).

**Claim 22**, Ikegami discloses wherein when the function key is pushed for the selected application, (**Ikegami: Col. 8 lines 26-31- thus key 626 is use to set or assign one particular application to a key**) the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating that the function key cannot be assigning to the selected application if the number of applications assigning to the function key already reaches a limit number. (**Ikegami: Col. 9 Lines 44-61, Fig. 620, thus it clearly shows that copying is possible and therefore it can be done, if it is impossible it will tell otherwise**)

**Claim 23**, Ikegami discloses wherein, in the step of assigning, the image forming apparatus obtains a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; and stores an application ID of the selected application **(Ikegami: Memory storing the application address in Fig. 2 El. 174 and 175)** and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage between the key and the software that supports the function key which operates through the Processor as a communication means)**

**Claim 24**, Ikegami discloses wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the image forming apparatus stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications assigning to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

**Claim 25**, Ikegami discloses wherein, when a function key to which a plurality of applications are assigning is pushed, **(Ikegami: Col. 8 lines 26-31- thus Key 626 is for setting the application mode such as printer or fax and printer)** the image forming apparatus displays a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

**Claim 26**, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus displays application status for each of the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)**

**Claim 27**, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigning within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

**Claim 28**, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows a plurality of applications such as Copy A & B, FAX and Printer)** in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigning within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

**Claim 29-42-Cancelled,**

**Claim 43**, Ikegami discloses a computer readable medium storing a computer program for causing an image forming apparatus to assign an

Art Unit: 2625

application to a function key, in which the image forming apparatus can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing)** the computer program comprising:

displaying program code means for displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus; **(Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button)** and

processing program code means **(CPU 171 since the CPU coordinates the inputs from the sensors as shown in fig. 2)** for assigning a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed for the selected application **(Col. 8 Lines 18-25, fig. 6, thus when a key is pressed or depressed the corresponding application is recognized or assigned as the operating mode of the image forming apparatus)**

wherein the function key **(Fig. 6 El. 601, 604, 607 and 610, thus these keys are use to select the appropriate application)** is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications. **(Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 El. 172, thus when a user presses a copying key then among printing and faxing application copying is selected).**

**Claim 44,** Ikegami discloses wherein the function key is a hardware key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)**

**Claim 45**, Ikegami discloses wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)**

**Claim 46**, Ikegami discloses wherein assignment by the assigning program code means is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application).**

**Claim 47**, Ikegami discloses wherein the assigning program code means displays a guidance screen **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 El. 617, Guidance key)** indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made)**

**Claim 48**, Ikegami discloses wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus)** and an image for guiding a user



Art Unit: 2625

to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus)**

**Claim 49**, Ikegami discloses wherein the assigning program code displays a screen indicating the number of application assigned to the function key.

**(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated).**

**Claim 50**, Ikegami discloses wherein the assigning program code displays a screen indicating that the function cannot be assigned to the selected application number of applications assigned to the function already reaches a limit number. **(Ikegami: Col. 9 Lines 44-61, Fig. 620, thus it clearly shows that copying is possible and therefore it can be done, if it is impossible it will tell otherwise)**

**Claim 51**, Ikegami discloses the assigning program code means including: program code means for obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 33-45, thus when a copy button is pressed, CPU 171 communicates with 172)** and

and program code means for storing an application ID of the selected application **(Ikegami: Memory storing the application address in Fig. 2 EI. 174 and 175)** and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is

Art Unit: 2625

associated with the function key ID. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage between the key and the software that supports the function key which operates through the Processor as a communication means)**

**Claim 52**, Ikegami wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the assigning program code means stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications assigned to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171).**

**Claim 53**, Ikegami discloses the computer program further comprising displaying program code means for when a function key to which a plurality of applications are assigned is pushed, **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows a plurality of application such as copy A & B, Fax and printer)** displaying a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

**Claim 54**, Ikegami discloses wherein the displaying program code means displays application status for each of the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)**

**Claim 55**, Ikegami discloses the computer program further comprising program code means for selecting one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible).**

**Claim 56**, Ikegami discloses the computer program further comprising program code means for selecting one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 33-45, thus when a copy button is pressed, CPU 171 communicates with 172)** that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171).**

**Response to applicant's remark**

The arguments filed by the applicant on 04/21/2009 has been considered but was not persuasive.

Regarding the 112 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, Examiner withdrawn the rejection due the amendments entered by the examiner.

Regarding Claims 1, 15 and 43 applicant argues that the cited references fails to teach or disclose wherein the function key is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications that are useable on the image forming apparatus and that include at least one of a copy application, a printer application, and a facsimile application.

**In reply**, examiner respectfully disagree because as described in the Office action wherein the function key (**Fig. 6 El. 601, 604, 607 and 610, thus these keys are use to select the appropriate application**) is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications that are useable on the image forming apparatus (**Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 El. 172, thus when a user presses a copying key then among printing and faxing application copying is selected and all these applications processed on the digital copier shown in Fig. 1**) and that include at least one of a copy application, ((**Copy A and B 601 and 604**) and a printer application (**Printer button 610**) and a facsimile and (**FAX button 607**) application.

**NB: Understand that the keys shown in Fig. 6 such as the copy, Fax and Printer are used in communicating the choice of application to the CPU.**

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AKWASI M. SARPONG whose telephone

Art Unit: 2625

number is (571)270-3438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

AMS  
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